

Appl. No. 10/697,225
Atty. Docket No. 9396
Amdt. dated Nov. 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of Nov. 1, 2005
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A disposable absorbent article for wearing about a lower torso of a wearer and having a longitudinal axis, two laterally opposed article side edges extending between a laterally extending first waist end edge in a first waist region and a laterally extending second waist end edge in a second waist region, and a crotch region interposed therebetween, the disposable absorbent article comprising:
a backsheet;
a topsheet joined to the backsheet and having a body-facing surface;
an absorbent core disposed intermediate the backsheet and the topsheet;
at least one wetness sensation member including a permeable body-facing layer covering a portion of the absorbent core and a flow control layer disposed between the permeable body-facing layer and the absorbent core in a face-to-face arrangement with the permeable body-facing layer and having two laterally opposed flow control layer side edges, at least a portion of each of the two flow control layer side edges being disposed laterally inwardly of the article side edges; and
a visible highlighting indicating a presence of the wetness sensation member in the disposable absorbent article and being visible at least when viewing the body-facing surface of the topsheet to facilitate an opportunity for urinary toilet training of the wearer,
wherein urine deposited by the wearer onto the wetness sensation member can penetrate through the permeable body-facing layer in a z direction away from the wearer to the flow control layer and the flow control layer retards the passage of the urine through the wetness sensation member in the z direction and supports the movement of the urine in an x-y plane such that the wearer's awareness of urination is enhanced.
2. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the visible highlighting comprises at least one area of the flow control layer of the wetness sensation member including a graphic visibly differing in coloration from the topsheet.

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3. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the visible highlighting comprises at least one area of the flow control layer of the wetness sensation member including a solid coloring visibly differing in coloration from the topsheet.
4. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 further comprising an externally visible marking wherein the visible highlighting is associatively correlated with the externally visible marking.
5. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the visible highlighting is associatively correlated with the concept of urinary toilet training.
6. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the flow control layer is formed by a film or a hydrophobic nonwoven.
7. (Original) A disposable absorbent article for wearing about a lower torso of a wearer and having a longitudinal axis, two laterally opposed article side edges extending between a laterally extending first waist end edge in a first waist region and a laterally extending second waist end edge in a second waist region, and a crotch region interposed therebetween, the disposable absorbent article comprising:
 - a backsheet;
 - a topsheet joined to the backsheet and having a body-facing surface;
 - an absorbent core disposed intermediate the backsheet and the topsheet;
 - at least one wetness sensation member integrated with the topsheet such that a portion of the topsheet covering a portion of the absorbent core forms a permeable body-facing layer of the wetness sensation member, the wetness sensation member also including a flow control layer disposed between the permeable body-facing layer and the absorbent core in a face-to-face arrangement with the permeable body-facing layer and having two laterally opposed flow control layer side edges, at least a portion of each of the two flow control layer side edges being disposed laterally inwardly of the article side edges; and
 - a visible highlighting indicating a presence of the wetness sensation member in the disposable absorbent article and being visible at least when viewing the body-facing surface of the topsheet to facilitate an opportunity for urinary toilet training of the wearer,

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wherein urine deposited by the wearer onto the wetness sensation member can penetrate through the permeable body-facing layer in a z direction away from the wearer to the flow control layer and the flow control layer retards the passage of the urine through the wetness sensation member in the z direction and supports the movement of the urine in an x-y plane such that the wearer's awareness of urination is enhanced.

8. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 7 comprising a plurality of the wetness sensation members disposed parallel to and spaced apart from the longitudinal axis and spaced apart from one another, each of the wetness sensation members being integrated with the topsheet such that a respective portion of the topsheet covering a respective portion of the absorbent core forms the permeable body-facing layer of each of the respective wetness sensation members.
9. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 8 wherein the plurality of wetness sensation members are separated from one another by a spacing ranging from about 5 mm to about 15 mm.
10. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 8 wherein the topsheet comprises two Z-folds parallel to the longitudinal axis and the flow control layer of each of the respective wetness sensation members is disposed within a respective one of the two Z-folds.
11. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 10 wherein the two Z-folds are separated by a spacing ranging from about 50 mm to about 90 mm.
12. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 10 wherein the two Z-folds further comprise two elastic members disposed along the two flow control layers.
13. (Original) A disposable absorbent article for wearing about a lower torso of a wearer and having a first waist region, a second waist region, and a crotch region interposed therebetween, the disposable absorbent article comprising:
 - a backsheet;
 - a topsheet joined to the backsheet;
 - an absorbent core disposed intermediate the backsheet and the topsheet;

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at least one wetness sensation member covering a portion of the absorbent core and including a permeable body-facing layer not formed by a portion of the topsheet and a flow control layer disposed between the permeable body-facing layer and the absorbent core in a face-to-face arrangement with the permeable body-facing layer, no portion of the permeable body-facing layer extending longitudinally or transversely beyond the flow control layer; and

a visible highlighting indicating a presence of the wetness sensation member in the disposable absorbent article and being visible at least when viewing the body-facing surface of the topsheet to facilitate an opportunity for urinary toilet training of the wearer,

wherein urine deposited by the wearer onto the wetness sensation member can penetrate through the permeable body-facing layer in a z direction away from the wearer to the flow control layer and the flow control layer retards the passage of the urine through the wetness sensation member in the z direction and supports the movement of the urine in an x-y plane such that the wearer's awareness of urination is enhanced.

14. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 13 comprising a plurality of the wetness sensation members disposed parallel to and spaced apart from the longitudinal axis, each of the respective wetness sensation members covering a respective portion of the absorbent core and including a permeable body-facing layer not formed by a portion of the topsheet and a flow control layer disposed between the permeable body-facing layer and the absorbent core in a face-to-face arrangement with the permeable body-facing layer, no portion of the permeable body-facing layer extending longitudinally or transversely beyond the flow control layer.
15. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 14 wherein the plurality of wetness sensation members are separated from one another by a spacing ranging from about 5 mm to about 15 mm.
16. (Original) A disposable absorbent article for wearing about a lower torso of a wearer and having a longitudinal axis, a first waist region, a second waist region, and a crotch region interposed therebetween, the disposable absorbent article comprising:
 - a backsheet;
 - a topsheet joined to the backsheet and having a body-facing surface;

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an absorbent core disposed intermediate the backsheet and the topsheet;
at least one wetness sensation member disposed on a portion of the body-facing surface of the topsheet covering a portion of the absorbent core, the wetness sensation member including a permeable body-facing layer and a flow control layer disposed between the permeable body-facing layer and the topsheet in a face-to-face arrangement with the permeable body-facing layer; and
a visible highlighting indicating a presence of the wetness sensation member in the disposable absorbent article and being visible at least when viewing the body-facing surface of the topsheet to facilitate an opportunity for urinary toilet training of the wearer,
wherein urine deposited by the wearer onto the wetness sensation member can penetrate through the permeable body-facing layer in a z direction away from the wearer to the flow control layer and the flow control layer retards the passage of the urine through the wetness sensation member in the z direction and supports the movement of the urine in an x-y plane such that the wearer's awareness of urination is enhanced.

17. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 16 comprising a plurality of the wetness sensation members disposed parallel to and spaced apart from the longitudinal axis and spaced apart from one another, each of the respective wetness sensation members being disposed on a respective portion of the body-facing surface of the topsheet covering a respective portion of the absorbent core.
18. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 17 wherein the plurality of wetness sensation members are separated from one another by a spacing ranging from about 5 mm to about 15 mm.
19. (Original) A disposable absorbent article for wearing about a lower torso of a wearer and having a longitudinal axis, a first waist region, a second waist region, and a crotch region interposed therebetween, the disposable absorbent article comprising:
a backsheet;
a topsheet joined to the backsheet and having a body-facing surface;
an absorbent core disposed intermediate the backsheet and the topsheet;

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at least two impermeable barrier leg cuffs disposed on the body-facing surface of the topsheet parallel to the longitudinal axis;
a plurality of wetness sensation members integrated with the barrier leg cuffs such that a portion of each of the barrier leg cuffs covering a portion of the absorbent core forms a flow control layer of each of the respective wetness sensation members, each of the wetness sensation members also including a permeable body-facing layer disposed in a face-to-face arrangement with the flow control layer; and
a visible highlighting indicating a presence of the wetness sensation member in the disposable absorbent article and being visible at least when viewing the body-facing surface of the topsheet to facilitate an opportunity for urinary toilet training of the wearer,
wherein urine deposited by the wearer onto each of the wetness sensation members can penetrate through the permeable body-facing layer in a z direction away from the wearer to the flow control layer and the flow control layer retards the passage of the urine through the wetness sensation member in the z direction and supports the movement of the urine in an x-y plane to enhance the wearer's awareness that urination has occurred.

20. (Original) A disposable absorbent article for wearing about a lower torso of a wearer and having a longitudinal axis, a first waist region, a second waist region, and a crotch region interposed therebetween, the disposable absorbent article comprising:
a backsheet;
a topsheet joined to the backsheet and having a body-facing surface;
an absorbent core disposed intermediate the backsheet and the topsheet;
at least two permeable barrier leg cuffs disposed on the body-facing surface of the topsheet parallel to the longitudinal axis;
a plurality of wetness sensation members integrated with the barrier leg cuffs such that a portion of each of the barrier leg cuffs covering a portion of the absorbent core forms a permeable body-facing layer of each of the respective wetness sensation members, each of the wetness sensation members also including a flow control layer disposed in a face-to-face arrangement with the permeable layer; and
a visible highlighting indicating a presence of the wetness sensation member in the disposable absorbent article and being visible at least when viewing the body-facing

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surface of the topsheet to facilitate an opportunity for urinary toilet training of the wearer,

wherein urine deposited by the wearer onto each of the wetness sensation members can penetrate through the permeable body-facing layer in a z direction away from the wearer to the flow control layer and the flow control layer retards the passage of the urine through the wetness sensation member in the z direction and supports the movement of the urine in an x-y plane to enhance the wearer's awareness that urination has occurred.

21. (Previously Presented) A disposable absorbent article for wearing about a lower torso of a wearer and having a longitudinal axis, a first waist region, a second waist region, and a crotch region interposed between the waist regions, the disposable absorbent article comprising:
a backsheet;
a topsheet joined to the backsheet and having a body-facing surface;
an absorbent core disposed intermediate the backsheet and the topsheet;
at least one wetness sensation member including a flow control layer disposed between a permeable body-facing layer and the absorbent core; and
a visible highlighting indicating a presence of the wetness sensation member in the disposable absorbent article and being visible at least when viewing the body-facing surface of the topsheet to facilitate an opportunity for urinary toilet training of the wearer,
wherein urine deposited by the wearer onto the wetness sensation member can penetrate through the permeable body-facing layer in a z direction away from the wearer to the flow control layer and the flow control layer retards the passage of the urine through the wetness sensation member in the z direction.
22. (Previously Presented) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 21 wherein the visible highlighting comprises at least one area of the flow control layer of the wetness sensation member visibly differing in coloration from the topsheet.
23. (Previously Presented) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 21 further comprising an externally visible marking wherein the visible highlighting is associatively correlated with the externally visible marking.

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24. (Previously Presented) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 21 wherein the visible highlighting is associatively correlated with the concept of urinary toilet training.
25. (Previously Presented) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 21 comprising a plurality of the wetness sensation members disposed parallel to and spaced apart from the longitudinal axis and spaced apart from one another.
- 26 -30. (Canceled)